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Endemic Curculionoidea to the islands within the Strait of Sicily

Enzo COLONNELLI¹* & David MIFSUD²

Twenty-one species of endemic weevils are found on the islands of the Strait of Sicily, including the Egadi Islands. These weevils are classified under the Superfamily Curculionoidea, 18 of which fall under the Family Curculionidae whereas the remaining species belong to the Family Raymondionymidae. Of these, two species namely *Echinodera* sp. n. (?) near *capbonensis* and *Amaurorhinus* sp. near *paganettii* both from Malta are still undescribed. All 21 species are flightless and most likely polyphagous.

Nine species show affinities with similar ones from Sicily, whereas the eyeless *Neumatora annamariae* from Lampedusa belongs to a genus with three other species occurring in Tunisia, and *Amaurorhinus* sp. near *paganettii* from Malta appears close to a species from the North-eastern Adriatic Region.

The remaining 10 taxa belong to genera widely distributed in the western Mediterranean Region. Seven of these are soil-inhabiting blind weevils, of which four belong to Curculionidae and four to Raymondionymidae. Only one of the considered taxa, *Chiloneus hoffmanni*, has been found in two different islands, while all others are endemic of a single island or archipelago. The absolute majority of Curculionoidea are apparently unrelated with the origin of the islands whether it is volcanic in origin, or a result of fragmentation from neighbouring continental plates. This suggests that the colonisation of the islands within the Strait of Sicily took place via the sea. The notable exception is that for *Neumatora annamariae* whose three relatives are all endemic of Tunisia, the mainland area to which Lampedusa also geologically belongs to.

¹ via delle Giunchiglie, 56, Rome, Italy

² Institute of Earth Systems, Division for Rural Sciences and Food Systems, University of Malta, Msida, Malta

* Corresponding author. E-mail: ecolonnelli@yahoo.it